(c) whether the ground water samples collected from 26 cities have been found heavily polluted; and

(d) if so, the action plan formulated by Government to make groundwater free from any lead or other pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) As per study conducted by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to assess the ground water quality in 35 metro cities during 2002-2007 the concentration of lead in ground water exceeding the BIS standard (50 parts per billion) is reported in certain parts of Faridabad, Delhi, Jaipur, Indore, Nagpur, Nasik, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Vishakapatnam, Patna, Rajkot, Surat, Vadodara, Asansol, Amritsar, Agra, Madurai, Coimbatore, Chennai, Vijayawada and Mumbai.

(d) The actions taken to free the ground water from lead and other types of pollution include:-

(i) Exploration of ground water sources free from contaminants.

(ii) Providing technical guidance to States in tackling problems of ground water quality.

(iii) Provisioning of safe drinking water to rural population under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and organisation 'of mass awareness programmes in ground water affected areas.

(iv) Directions issued by CPCB to limit the discharge of effluents within the stipulated standards and setting up of network of water quality monitoring stations and common effluent treatment plants.

Problem of access water of various dams

1699. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that access water of various Dam, situated in the Bhutan is creating serious trouble during the rainy season in some of the districts in Assam, creating artificial floods;

(b) if so, whether Government has considered any study and taking steps to protect the life and properties of the people of those areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Government of Assam informed during monsoon 2007 that the releases of large quantities of water from various hydroelectric projects such as Tala, Chukha, Kurichu etc., undertaken by the Govt. of Bhutan, when rivers were already in spate, caused severe devastation in India, particularly in Baksa and Barapeta districts of Assam. Similar apprehensions were raised by Government of Assam during the monsoon of 2008.

(b) and (c) Central Water Commission (CWC) has submitted a report on the release of excess water from Bhutan *vis-a-vis* floods in lower Assam in July, 2007. The report indicated that the

flooding and consequent damages which occurred in lower Assam during 2nd half of July, 2007 were not attributable to the release of excess water from dams in Bhutan. The floods were caused by wide spread heavy rainfall during the later half of July, 2007 in the lower reaches of Eastern and Middle Bhutan. The issue was however taken up further with the Government of Bhutan during the 2nd meeting of Joint Group of Experts between India and Bhutan on Flood Management held at New Delhi on Feb. 26-27, 2008. The Bhutanese side informed in the meeting that the projects Tala, Chukha, Kurichu etc. are Run of River (ROR) Schemes and have very little live storage capacities. During monsoon season, Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB) generally maintain the reservoir level in the above projects below Full Reservoir Level (FRL) to provide some cushion against sudden rise in inflow and therefore, there is no excess release of water from the projects. The figures of spillway discharges and machine are received by CWC from RGoB regularly.

Proposal for canal repair works in Madhya Pradesh

†1700. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposals for canal repair works under correction of deficiency have been forwarded for approval by the Madhya Pradesh Government;

(b) the number of proposals approved by Government of India, so far;

(c) the reason for not according approval to the proposals for canal repair work, so far; and

(d) the time limit for approval of the pending proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Six proposals have been submitted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh under correction of system deficiencies in June, 2008.

(b) to (d) The Command Area Development and Water Management Programme for the XI Plan has been approved by the Government only in the month of October, 2008. The proposals will now be placed before the Core Group of Experts of the Ministry of Water Resources for consideration in the next meeting.

Depletion of ground water

1701. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) present scenario of depleting ground water, Block-wise and State-wise;

(b) how many of these Blocks are safe;

(c) the rates of depletion of water level, during last three years, Block-wise, State-wise and Year-wise;

(d) what has been achieved by the Scheme, "Artifical Recharge to Ground Water through dug well" in seven States; and

(e) how alarming is scenario of depletion of ground water in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) As per the joint assessment carried out by the Central Ground Water

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi